THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) Under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-III, 33 projects of 2075 km length with a cost of Rs. 12487 crore have been awarded by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), while under NHDP Phase-V, 7 projects of 992 km length at a cost of Rs. 7446 crore have been awarded on Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode. NHDP Phase-VI aims at development of 1000 km of expressways on PPP mode at an estimated of cost Rs 16680 crore and the projects have not reached the award stage so far. Under NHDP Phase-IVA, feasibility bids for 24 projects for a total length of 2981 km have been invited so far by the Department of Road Transport and Highways/State Governments.

(b) As part of the continuous endeavor to attract private investments, the Government has provided the policy frame work for award of all contracts for provision of road services only on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) basis for NHDP Phase-III and onwards. In addition to the provision of capital subsidy up to 40% of project cost to make projects viable (Viability Gap Funding), duty free import of high capacity and modern construction equipment and 100% tax exemption in any consecutive 10 years out of 20 years of operations, etc. are available to the investors.

Four-laning of Gandhidham-Mundra Road

1968. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preparation of Feasibility-cum-Preliminary Design Report of Gandhidham-Mundra section and NH-8A (Extn.) has been completed;

(b) if so, by when the four-laning work is likely to be started; and

(c) the present status of the work towards this cause?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the project preparation of feasibility cum Preliminary design report of Gandhidham— Kandla—Mundra section of NH 8A (Extn.) is in progress under NHDP Phase III. The work on BOT basis is likely to be awarded by July, 2009 depending on its viability on BOT basis.

Raising allocation for road projects

†1969. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many States have demanded to raise budget allocation for the road projects;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.